IN THE SPECIFICATION

The following paragraph will replace the prior version in the Specification.

[0018] The invention describes a method for hardening a security mechanism against physical intrusion and substitution attacks. A user establishes a connection between a network peripheral device ~~(12)~~ and a network ~~(14)~~ via a security mechanism ~~(10)~~. The security mechanism ~~(10)~~ includes read only memory (ROM) ~~(22)~~ that contains code that initiates operation of the mechanism and performs authentication functions. A persistent memory ~~(24)~~ contains configuration information. A volatile memory ~~(26)~~ stores user and device identification information that remains valid only for a given session and is erased thereafter to prevent a future security breach. A tamper-evident enclosure ~~(32)~~ surrounds the memory elements, which if breached, becomes readily apparent to the user. ~~The software stored in the ROM (22) must be constructed so that a future compromise of the device will not adversely affect the security of past sessions and so that data that affects the level of security provided to the user is obtained at the beginning of each session.~~